

Suggested Remarks
Catherine Hamlin, Governance Officer
USAID-Supported Anti-Trafficking Initiative (Walk for Freedom)
Ayala Triangle, Makati
Friday, June 15, 2012; 08:00 - 10:00 a.m.

- *Secretary of Justice, Honorable Leila De Lima;*
- *Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, Honorable Dinky Soliman;*
- *Senator Loren Legarda;*
- *Undersecretary Jose Vicente Salazar;*
- *Mr. Andrew Forrest and Walk Free delegates from Australia;*
Champions in the fight against human slavery;

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat! (Good morning to you all!)

I am honored to be among the company of such esteemed champions in the battle against human trafficking.

I would like to congratulate the organizers and partners of this event, in particular the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT), and

Visayan Forum Foundation, as well as those who are present today, taking a stand against human trafficking.

The U.S. Government through USAID has been working with the Government of the Philippines and civil society partners since 2003 to fight human trafficking. We have worked on the three P's of anti-trafficking: prevention through raising awareness, prosecution of traffickers, and protection of victims. And the success of these efforts can be attributed to the 4th P – partnerships.

There are many partnerships represented here today. These partnerships extend beyond this triangle – to agencies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport of Manila, to youth and other anti-trafficking advocates representing communities and local governments, and to multi-sectoral task forces in seaports from Sorsogon to Surigao to Zamboanga.

This year USAID announced a new Policy on Counter-trafficking in Persons. One of the main thrusts of the policy is the importance of promoting Partnerships like we have here today. – We are proud that we are a partner in this fight and we are proud to be here to support all of you in these partnerships.

The path towards a world free of human trafficking is a long and challenging journey but the partnerships that we have created and will build along the way is an assurance that we are on the right track. No country has achieved complete success in eradicating human trafficking. We need to keep spreading the word that trafficking in persons will not be tolerated – in the Philippines or anywhere in the world and that we honor the dignity and freedom of every person! Keep talking about the reality of illegal recruitment and trafficking. And lastly, keep moving forward to end human slavery.

Keep talking, keep walking!

Thank you!